



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. - John Gettinger V. Pres. – Dave Hacker
Treasurer – Robert Shepard Secretary – Dale Brier

March 13, 2013 1:00 pm
Ouabache Trails Park
3500 N. Lower Ft. Knox Rd.
Vincennes, IN 47591

Attendance

Voting Members Present:

Allen County – Phil Cox (proxy)
Carroll County - George Mears
Fountain County - Carol Hacker (proxy)
Gibson County - Bill Knowles
Huntington County - Dave Hacker
Knox County - Rama Sobhani
Miami County - Kenneth Einselen
Parke County – Penny Cox
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County - John Gettinger
Tippecanoe County – Jim Andrew
Vermillion County – Larry Southard
Vigo County – Keith Ruble (alternate)
Wabash County - Keith Pool (alternate)
DNR - Dale Brier (alternate)

DNR Staff Present:

Leah Kopp - Nature Preserves

Guests:

Jo Anne Fiscus
John Fiscus
Rae Schnapp – Tippecanoe County (alt)

Non-Voting Members Present:

Josh Brosmer – IDEM

Voting Members Absent:

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt
Cass County- Arin Shaver
Warren County - Steve Eberly
Wells County - Scott Elzey

Counties not participating

Jay County

Meeting minutes

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

President John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. After member introductions John G. asked for proxies; Ron Zartman gave his to Phil Cox, Robert Shepherd gave his to Carol Hacker, Scott Elzey gave his to Dave Hacker, and Ryan Noblitt gave his to John Gettinger. Jo Anne Fiscus and Bruce Fiscus requested to speak to the Commission about their organization, Watermark. Keith Ruble then made a motion to accept the agenda with a second from Larry Southard. Motion passed.

Review and Approval of January 9, 2012 Minutes

Keith Ruble made a motion to approve the January 9 minutes with a second from Penny Cox, motion carried.

Presidents Report

John G. said he had been busy trying to get things ready for the Sullivan County River Expedition. He also made the comment that Vigo County is doing a great job with Year of the River events. John has attended several meetings including an awards program at the Sullivan County Conservation District where his grandson was an award recipient.

Finance Report

Dale B. announced that the current balance of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (WRHCF) is \$515,202.86 (see-attached report). \$420,000.00 will be encumbered for grants soon, leaving a balance of approximately \$95,000.00 in the fund. George Mears asked if there was a danger of funds being taken by the budget agency with the fund balance being so high. Dale commented that he has not heard of fund raiding in the last couple of years. Dale also said as contracts are signed, encumbered grant money would come out. A motion was made by Larry S. to accept the finance report followed by a second by George M., motion carried.

Committee Reports

Budget – Dave H. gave the budget report in the absence of Bob Shepherd. He passed out a proposed budget for next year and the current budget. It was decided that the budget would be reviewed and discussed at the May meeting. John G. stated that the Commission needs to have a budget and they need to stay within that budget, just like any other government agency. George questioned the \$8,000 Administrative fee from the last fiscal year. John Gettinger spoke to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and he has not received the written response they promised. Dale did not know if the fee would show up again or how much it might be.

Watermark – Jo Anne Fiscus shared a handout and made a presentation about Watermark. Watermark has gained permission from the City of Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department to install a work of art in Fairbanks Park that honors and celebrates the Wabash River. The project consists of three components. Component 1 - is a rectangular pad consisting of 30 stepping-stones made from ceramic tiles and each will contain an image specific in concept to the Wabash River including flora and fauna, water vehicles and the industrial history of the river. Component 2 –consists of a short path that starts from the existing sidewalk and leads to the pad. Component 3 – of the proposal is a steel sign, which will list the names of each of the artist in Watermark and credits sponsors who help fund the project. Discussion followed Jo Anne's presentation and Ralph W. made a motion to donate \$2,000 to Watermark with a second from Jim A. Dale suggested that the usual sponsorship maximum is \$1,000 so Ralph amended his motion and Jim agreed to sponsor the project for \$1000. Motion carried. The WRHCC will be recognized as a sponsoring entity on all publications including the steel sign mentioned in Component 3.

Grants – Dale said that the grants team is working on them. The grants team is overworked and understaffed, but they are putting contracts together now. Bicentennial Nature Trust (BNT) grants were also discussed. If you want to know more, contact Bob Bronson. Discussion followed on what the Commission could and could not fund. John G. mentioned the WRHCC giving money directly to park boards to purchase land. Dale informed the Commission that the only way that could be done would be through a grant.

Legislative – Dave H. mentioned that he and John G. had a meeting and talked about the Legislative agenda. They agreed that if the Commission wants an agenda it has to be substantial

and affect the Wabash River. Ken E. asked if they looked at any of the Legislation that is coming through that might affect the river. Both agreed that they had not. Dale mentioned that it is very easy to do online. Phil C. said that he thinks there is a house bill that might have an impact on the river. He does not know the number but discussion had taken place at a Soil and Water Conservation District meeting. He said that it has to do with clean water Indiana funding.

Water Trail – Dale said that he has not received anything since the last meeting and about five counties that have not submitted information. He suggested counties check into the issue of river camping, he knows there are campsites that have not been recorded. John G. asked if any of the State Parks have looked into having riverside camping areas. Dale explained that most State Parks just have campgrounds and usually do not promote or provide free riverside camping. He did say if the Commission wanted to investigate, they should first check with the property managers at the parks.

Banks of the Wabash – Ken E. mentioned the Banks of the Wabash (BOW) meeting was held on January 16 and Ken was not in attendance. The WRHCC has now been added to their membership roster. Dale will renew the WRHCC membership; the cost will continue to be \$500. The next BOW meeting is March 20 at Terre Haute. The National River Rally will be held in St. Louis, May 17 - 20. They are also having some discussion on updating the bylaws.

Year of the River Celebration – Keith R. mentioned that he could not keep up with everything that is going on. He said that there are things going on all of the time and it is amazing what all is being done.

Old Business

Newport Chemical Depot Land Re-Use – Penny C. had nothing to report. Phil C. attended a tour there last month. They have three businesses up and going. The DNR Conservation area is to be ready in 2026. Well repairs were completed on 1/31/13 and there is no camping news to report. Larry S. is monitoring the river and it is shaping up in clarity, there are two eagle's nest reported in the area as well. Phil C. said that there was a fantastic article in the Terre Haute newspaper about Larry S. and his knowledge of the button factories and how the mussels are making a comeback in the Wabash.

River Currents: Next edition article submission deadline – They always need articles.

Indiana Bicentennial in 2016 – Rae S. reported that Chris Jenson is the new staff member recently appointed but he has not returned any of her phone calls.

River Road and Heritage Community Sign Programs – (Parke County) They do have signs up, however their bridge signs are not up yet. Ken has a meeting scheduled with INDOT on April 12 in Crawfordsville. He did comment that river road information would be beneficial.

Shirt Order – During the break, Dale and Leah distributed new WRHCC shirts. Dale also handed out business cards from Outrageous Apparel so members can purchase other items with the WRHCC logo on it.

River Cleanups –

- Rae S. announced that the DeTrash the Wabash is in Lafayette on April 20. Keith R. mentioned that anyone who has a river cleanup to advise their people to be very careful in picking up dangerous items such as needles and meth lab materials. He mentioned the local Police department might be willing to come out and talk to the group before they get started on the river.
- Dave H. said that the Huntington clean up will take place on July 27. They are expanding their section to include more areas. The city of Huntington is funding the biggest part of the clean up, the Mayor thinks this is a very positive step in cleaning up the river.
- Another river clean up is April 7 from 9 AM – 1 PM in Vigo County. It is the third annual Operation Wabashski clean up which is being sponsored by the Sustainability Club from St. Mary's of the Woods College.
- Keith P. announced Wabash River Defenders will be doing a clean up on Saturday, July 27. Last month they did an interview with *Outdoor Indiana* and it should appear in the July issue. They mentioned the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission in their interview.

New Business

Future Meetings and Locations –

- May 8, 2013 at 1 PM at Fox Island County Park, 7324 Yohne Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46809
- July 10, 2013 – Terre Haute, IN
- September 11, 2013 – Vermillion County
- November 13, 2013 – Lafayette IN
- January 8, 2014 – Indianapolis IN

How to Better Utilize the Media - (Rama Sobhani) Rama made a presentation on Media attention tips for WRHCC members. His handout outlined ways to expand media coverage and advice on what to do and not do.

Sponsorships – The Wabash County River Defenders requested a \$1,500 sponsorship made by Keith P. Keith R. made a motion to support the request with a second from Rama S. Dale suggested the Commission sticks to the \$1,000 sponsorship maximum they set in the past. The motion then changed to a \$1,000 sponsorship. Motion carried.

Rae S. also requested a \$1,000 sponsorship for DeTrash the Wabash clean up in Tippecanoe County. Jim A. then made the motion to support the DeTrash the Wabash for \$1,000 with a second from Larry S. The motion carried.

Keith R. then suggested that those getting sponsorships should come back with a presentation about the clean up and write an article for *River Currents*. He would also be interested in hearing about the tonnage, what was found, and how the money was used.

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussions

Upcoming Committee Meetings – John announced that they have been having an executive meeting in between regular WRHCC meetings to keep in touch and talk about other things that the Commission might be interested in doing. He mentioned that the Commission needs to start talking about the criteria for the next grant round. A committee consisting of Dave H., Kara K., Rae S., Dale B., Bob B., was appointed at the last meeting but a chair of that committee was not designated. Dale suggested that Kara might be willing to serve as the chair. John said this is one

of the most important things that the Commission does in awarding grants so everyone on the Commission should be allowed input. The WRHCC will discuss ideas at the next meeting, and then send those ideas to the committee for refinement. Dale said the DNR Grant Staff would be more than happy to sit down with the committee and go over best practices, best options, how to make sure money is wisely spent. More discussion ensued on the future grant round. Keith R. suggested having a planning meeting and inviting State Parks, Conservation Officers, NRCS and WRP areas to get as many players as you can. Rae S. suggested talking to the grant recipients on how things might and might not work. Dale said that the DNR is aware of some of the problems and will consider those issues when working on the next grant round.

Dale then issued an assignment for everyone at the meeting; open up and read the 2004 Corridor Management Plan. It lists the plans that this commission came up with for how the river should be enhanced, and ideas of where money should go and what should happen along the river. The plan is online on the WRHCC website.

Other County or Special Event Announcements, Festival Dates for next year, etc. – The new Recreation Guides are out. Dale brought enough so that everyone should be able to have one.

Next meeting - The next meeting is in Ft. Wayne at Fox Island County Park, 7324 Yohne Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46809.

Jim A. made a motion for adjournment at 4:27 PM with a second from Keith P. Motion carried.

WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR

48686

Balance as of July 1, 2012	\$415,746.93
plus revenue	\$121,375.32
minus expenses	(\$21,919.39)
Balance March 4, 2013	\$515,202.86

Revenue

431401 AD - Oil and Gas royalty along	\$121,375.32
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Expenses

510101 Payroll Salaries & Wages	\$9,971.10
516003 Payroll Social Security	\$698.62
517003 Payroll Perf St Pd Em COntr	\$299.12
517005 Payroll PERF State Share	\$967.20
518105 Anthem CDHP1	\$483.86
518107 Anthem CDHP 2	\$417.29
518151 Anthem Trad 2	\$574.99
518606 Payroll Life Insurance	\$13.49
518798 Payroll Delta Dental Trad	\$77.31
518800 Anthem Vision	\$7.77
518901 Payroll Employee Assistance	\$1.78
519006 Payroll Long Term Disability	\$174.45
519503 Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	\$76.16
519721 Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	\$61.13
519725 Payroll Health Savings Acct 2	\$21.62
541002 Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	\$261.58
546002 Off-Office Supplies	\$479.25
547026 SpOp-Awards & Gifts	\$135.00
547038 SpOp-Recreation	\$134.98
591024 NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	\$158.71
595110 InState Travel - Mileage	\$4,598.88
595120 InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	\$52.00
595130 InState Travel - Lodging	\$163.72
599116 AdmOp-Event Sponsor	\$2,000.00
659410 Postage	\$89.38
Total Expenses	\$21,919.39